

Successful AMBER Alert Recovery Stories

The AMBER Alert Saves Lives

AMBER Alerts can prevent further tragedy from occurring, as was the case in Georgia earlier this year when a man killed three of his former in-laws before abducting his two daughters and step-daughter and taking them on a frightening journey.

January 8, 2004, Calhoun, GA

A man allegedly murdered his three former in-laws and his own 10-month-old daughter before abducting his two daughters, ages 3 and 4, and his stepdaughter, 10. He contacted his ex-wife, told her about the killings, and threatened the lives of the girls. An AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist recognized the vehicle from the Alert and contacted police. Authorities were quickly at the scene, apprehended the suspect, and safely recovered the three children.

The Power of the Microphone

Some perpetrators release the abducted child after hearing the AMBER Alert on the radio or seeing it on television.

September 28, 2003, Lafayette, CO

After authorities learned that a man had beaten his former girlfriend and abducted their 14-month-old son, an AMBER Alert was issued. When the man heard the AMBER Alert on his radio, he dropped off the child at a family member's house the next day. The family member immediately contacted the child's mother. The child was safely returned to his mother.

States Working Together to Recover Abducted Children

Forty-nine states have statewide AMBER Alert plans, and are working together to develop interstate agreements. This means that if one state issues an AMBER Alert but the child is abducted across state lines, other states will agree to issue an AMBER Alert. In this case, a child was abducted in Minnesota and taken to Utah. Minnesota law enforcement asked Utah to issue an AMBER Alert and the child was recovered there.

May 7, 2003 St. Cloud, MN

An 11-year-old girl was reported missing by her mother when she awoke to find her gone, along with a 21-year-old man who had been staying with the family in search of work. Because of her age and the time and nature of her disappearance, the girl was believed to be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. When authorities learned that the suspect had ties in Utah, an AMBER Alert was activated in Utah as well. A Utah Highway Patrol trooper heard the alert and began using his laptop to calculate the drive time from St. Cloud, Minn., to Utah when he saw a car matching the description in the AMBER Alert drive by. The trooper pulled the car over, arrested the suspect, and the girl was safely returned to her family.